

# Gaily Forward

Tishri - Tevet 5777 / October - December 2016

## Transcend The Ordinary

By MICHAEL CHERTOK

We come together at this time of year for our annual ritual of t'shuvah. This time of year became even more meaningful for me when I read an extraordinary guide to the experience of the High Holy Days, by Rabbi Alan Lew z"l, *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared*. To bring us into the drama of this experience, Rabbi Lew writes of the start of the holidays, "the great horn sounds in earnest one hundred times. The time of transformation is upon you. The gate between heaven and earth creaks open." This experience is at once familiar to us and, for each of us, each year, a bit different. So too, each year our observances of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at Sha'ar Zahav maintain continuity, and are also different.

We recently chose "Transcend the Ordinary" as a tagline for our congregation. As a Jewish community that affirms the sacred in each of us -while serving as a home for our diverse expressions of Judaism and spirituality -it is our norm to think differently and to go beyond what you might experience in your parent's shul.

*"This year we will pray with the contemporary liturgy of Mishkan Hanefesh, the new Reform prayer books for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur."*

*- President Michael Chertok*



This year, we are even more consciously transcending our own ordinary to create a unique High Holy Days experience. Our goal is to make you feel more welcome, and to create a special setting to pray, reflect, and to be together in community. We start by returning to a newly renovated Herbst Theater. We decided to return to this special space to ensure that our High Holy Days experience would be accessible to all of our members and guests. In addition to the beautifully reconditioned theater, there are lovely new rooms for our breakout sessions, all in the same area, (continued on pg. 14)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Welcomes You!

2

from our  
rabbi

3

cantor's  
message

4

bar  
mitzvah

6

jewish  
education

7

annual  
meeting

8

legacy  
campaign

10

your  
donations

13

va'ad  
notes



# Emet: Acknowledging The Truth(s)

by Rabbi Ted Riter



I have my story. You have your story. And, common convention says that the “real” story is somewhere in between.

Many of us use this paradigm when listening to accounts from two other people. We listen with a bit of skepticism, perhaps also compassion,

recognizing that each person sees the world through their own lens. I purposefully use the third person “their,” since we do not often acknowledge our own vision might be clouded. After all, I was there! I know what happened! There is only one truth!

When meeting with couples, colleagues, and students struggling with conflicting stories, I often think about the “somewhere in between” theory. Over the past few years, however, I’ve come to my own conclusion that this approach often creates its own stumbling blocks. If I have my story and you have your story, it’s going to be tough for someone else to convince us we are both misconstruing what happened. In fact,

when challenged we might stop listening and hold even tighter to what we hold to be true. Certainly, there are some absolutes. An event happened or it did not happen. The numbers add up or they do not. And yet. . .and yet . . . THE truth is often disputed. We’ve seen disputes taking center stage in the political world this year. As politicians stump or debate, fact checkers are busy in real time grading the remarks for accuracy. Though I understand an occasional misspeak, I find it saddening and maddening that inaccuracies are purposefully repeated over and over again, and in the process become true for some listeners.

Regardless of the outcome of the November elections, I believe we are going to come out of this process with at least two stories, two truths, and a nation of polarities with people often refusing to listen to each other.

The answer for me is the word “truth” or in Hebrew “emet.” Emet is spelled aleph, mem, tav – respectively the first, middle and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Our Sages have taught that because these particular letters are used for this word, “truth” is the beginning, middle and end of everything. Most importantly for me, the word begins with the aleph; a silent letter identifying that *(continued on pg. 4)*

## Congregation Sha’ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco CA 94103

**VOICE** 415-861-6932

**FAX** 415-861-6081

**EMAIL** sharonh@shaarzahav.org

**WEB** <http://www.shaarzahav.org>

Congregation Sha’ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project

## Sha’ar Zahav Staff

**INTERIM RABBI** Ted Riter  
(x301) [rabbi@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbi@shaarzahav.org)

**CANTOR** Sharon Bernstein  
(x308) [cantorbernstein@gmail.com](mailto:cantorbernstein@gmail.com)

**ADMINISTRATOR** Sharon Heath  
(x303) [sharonh@shaarzahav.org](mailto:sharonh@shaarzahav.org)

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION** Leeaht Seegev  
(x302) [education@shaarzahav.org](mailto:education@shaarzahav.org)

**OFFICE AND FACILITIES MANAGER**  
Carrie Kwong  
(x304) [carrie@shaarzahav.org](mailto:carrie@shaarzahav.org)

## Officers

**PRESIDENT** Michael Chertok  
[president@shaarzahav.org](mailto:president@shaarzahav.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT** Larry Best  
Diana Buchbinder  
Nancy Levin

**RECORDER** Marc Lipschutz  
**TREASURER** Alice Harron

## Va’ad Members

Don Fischer, Tom Lakritz,  
Martin Rawlings-Fein, Michael Rice,  
Martin Tannenbaum, Laurie Trupin,  
Larry Wexler, Andy Williamson,  
Judith Wolfe, and Laura Lowe (ex officio)



# Turning And Returning. Again.

By SHARON BERNSTEIN



As you read this, we are on the cusp of Rosh Hashanah. The High Holy Days. On the bank, ready to enter, with foot extended, like Nachshon at the Red Sea.

The High Holy Days are only one of many (in fact, daily) Jewish contexts in which we have the opportunity

for self-examination and change. But the High Holy Days are the time in which we deal particularly in depth with ourselves, in which our rituals, prayers, poems, and customs are specifically directed toward that which we call t'shuvah.

T'shuvah (like many Hebrew words) is full of meanings. Coming from the root shuv, meaning "to return" or "again", t'shuvah is usually translated as "returning" or "repentance." In the Torah, shuv is used in many ways: to indicate a return, to turn back, turn away, retreat, or to come home.

It can also mean a change of approach, condition, or course of action; or to be restored, to

put something back into place, to bring back to mind, to take into consideration.

I often see t'shuvah as an act of contemplation, a point at which we stop, take stock, and consider: who we are, what we do, what we have done, and where we want to go. In a religious context, t'shuvah is about returning to our beliefs, to God, to practice.

In a personal context, I see it as stripping ourselves down to the core being that we are. Given that we are all b'tzelem Elohim, created in the image of God, one can see the two as the same. Being, finding, or returning to the person we most are is the same as turning to or returning to God.

The thing is that we don't do this just once. It's an ongoing process, this turning and returning. That's where it starts to get exciting, where it's not just High Holy Days again, but a whole new adventure each time, a path of discovery into who we have been and where we are going. I am so looking forward to traveling there together with all of you.

Wishing everyone Shanah Tovah Um'tukah, much sweetness, health, and happiness throughout the year.

## Task Force Leaders Jewish Gaily Forward

### MEMBERSHIP

Alice Harron and Nancy Levin  
membership@shaarzahav.org

### CONNECTIONS

Lisa Katz and Laurie Trupin  
connections@shaarzahav.org

To reach the JGF editorial team:  
jgf@shaarzahav.org

**EDITORIAL TEAM** Annye Bone, Paul Cohen, Emily Freeman, Mark Mackler, Karen Schiller, Sharyn Saslafsky, and Daniel Sanson

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT** Steven Davis  
starspringsf@gmail.com

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published four times a year by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav: January, April, July, and October. The deadline for submissions is 45 days prior to the publication date: November 15th, February 15th, May 15th, August 15th. All submissions to the JGF must meet editorial requirements and length requirements.

Specifications supplied upon request.

Permission to reprint with attribution granted. Articles reflect the opinion of their authors and not those of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Proofing errors will be atoned for each Yom Kippur.

**ADVERTISERS:** Contact Sharon Heath at sharonh@shaarzahav.org or 415-861-6932.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav reserves the right to reject any ad.

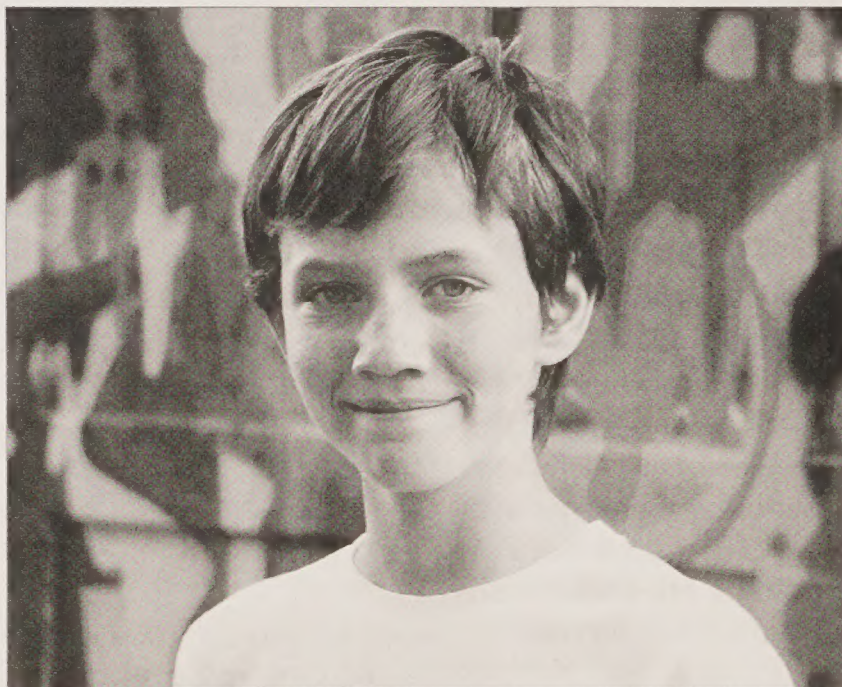


## An Advocate For Helping People In Need

by SHAI GARRETT GARCIA-GOLDBERG

Shai Garrett Garcia-Goldberg will be called as a bar mitzvah on October 29 to read Parsha Bereshit from the Torah and to share a teaching on the Creation story with his family, classmates and friends. The Creation story is a good fit for Shai, who loves to express his personal creative spark through his artwork, drawing and interpreting the world around him.

Shai attends 8th grade at Everett Middle School and his interests range from playing soccer and football to video games, Instagramming, texting, and his favorite school subjects, science and history. Shai has always been a strong advocate for helping people in need, particularly the homeless, as well as children and seniors living in poverty. He said, "Parsha Bereshit makes you think about



how in the beginning the earth was created with abundant resources available to everyone, but today the distribution of resources is way too complicated.

So, for my mitzvah project, I have selected The One Warm Coat organization in San Francisco.

They provide the homeless and those living within very fixed means to have a basic human need met...to be kept warm during cold weather." Details on how you can participate in Shai's Coat Drive and

fundraising effort will be posted in the CSZ lobby and on Shai's bar mitzvah website:

**[www.shaisbarmitzvah.com](http://www.shaisbarmitzvah.com)**

Just look for the link to One Warm Coat.

## SHA'AR ZAHAV FROM THE RABBI

*(continued from pg. 2)*

the truth begins with silence, with listening. For me, it's not that I have a story, you have a story, and the truth lies somewhere in between. But rather, I have a story and you have a story.

Only when we listen to each other and I acknowledge that your story is true for you and you acknowledge that my story is true for me will we be able to sit down in dialogue. I might not like your story. I might have a bucket full of reasons why you are wrong. But ultimately, until I am ready to listen to you and acknowledge that your truth is your truth, that we might

have multiple and even contradictory truths, we cannot move forward.

As a nation, we need to move forward. My goal during the next few months is to listen to those with different truths, to listen to the stories that underlie their convictions, and to hopefully find that place of understanding and peace.

I hope you will join me on this journey. Being willing to listen to others' truths can be saddening and maddening. May it also bring us blessings for the new year.



# A Passport To The Jewish Civilization

by Leo Hill

I never sought out a Jewish path let alone a Jewish journey. I did not have a good opinion of religion in general because religion appeared to do just as much harm as good in the world. But in 2006 I read about a trans guy like me serving as a rabbinic intern at Sha'ar Zahav. I became curious about a religion that could create space for a person with a trans history. Unknown to me, my Jewish journey was to begin: I decided to attend a Friday night service and view Judaism up close.

Not only did I get a view but I got an embrace. The service was unfamiliar, but the sensation I felt during service was familiar. I felt grounded as though I was standing directly on earth with the stars above. I was intrigued by my positive response to the service so I returned for more services and Torah study. I decided to investigate The Book that has been used to support discrimination and oppression.

In retrospect, I compare my first encounter with Judaism to be like a great blind date. But I felt slightly bewildered to enjoy Judaism. It's a religion like all the others, isn't it? But the wonders of Jewish thought and action for the improvement of the world held an incredible attraction for me. The "wow" moments that occurred were awesome and frequent. For years, I practiced and celebrated, feasted and fasted in Jewish community. If asked about conversion



I said, "What for?" Around 2010 I answered the question for myself. I realized that I could not imagine life without Judaism. I wanted my passport, so to speak, to the Jewish civilization.

I made an appointment with Rabbi Angel, and she advised me that maybe 80% of the Jewish World would consider me Jewish. I said 80% is enough; I wanted to make my relationship official! I did not originally seek to be Jewish, but Judaism speaks to me like nothing else can about love, peace, justice and the wonders of the heart.

## Journey to Judaism: A Discussion Group

Facilitated by Ora Prochovnik and Rose Katz. This discussion group will explore issues that arise for people who are considering, are in the process of, or have recently completed converting to Judaism. Those with a Jewish parent (or parents), but raised with little or no Jewish experience and are interested in exploring their connection to Judaism are also welcome to attend.

**Six Mondays** (the second Monday of each month)  
**7 pm – 9 pm at CSZ:** November 14, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 13 & April 17

There is no charge for this group, but pre-registration is required. For further information, or to register, please contact: Rose Katz at 415-567-3327 ext. 706 ([rkatz@jewishlearningworks.org](mailto:rkatz@jewishlearningworks.org)), or the synagogue office at 415-861-6932 ([carrie@shaarzahav.org](mailto:carrie@shaarzahav.org)).



## Our Torah Mantle

By PHILIP CHARNEY

Most of us are familiar with the traditional white mantles that dress our torahs for the High Holidays. Fewer members and guests are aware of the beautiful mantles that adorn them for the rest of the year or know the history behind them.

Eleven years ago, our ritual committee decided to replace the worn garments that were in use

denim fabric was obtained from the company's supplier and lined with gold satin.

Stitching to represent rays of light was inspired by a design on a historic torah cover from Bavaria, the birthplace of Levi Strauss. Symbols such as a dove, olive branch and rainbow were adopted from the story of Noah and added to provide a hopeful message.

*"Stitching to represent rays of light was inspired by a design on a historic torah cover from Bavaria."*

*- Philip Charney*



at the time. In true CSZ fashion, it was decided to search for something that would express our uniqueness and history.

Fortuitously, we had a member, Avi Goldberg, who was an employee of Levi Strauss & Co. Avi reminded us of the positive relations the founder, Levi Strauss and his descendants have had with the local Jewish and LGBT communities.

With little prodding, a team at the Company went to work on the project, creating a special design to be used for the mantles. Durable blue

Some of the decorative elements were reclaimed from a vintage pair of jeans that dated from the time Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was founded.

After much effort, the first of the garments was ready for the Simchat Torah celebration of 2006 and the remaining two soon followed.

Our torahs are proudly paraded on shabbats when they are read. Be sure to inspect and admire them at your next opportunity.

Don't forget to welcome our incoming Director of Education: **Leeaht Segev!**



## CSZ Annual Meeting Report

By MARC LIPSCHUTZ

On May 25 we convened for an enthusiastic Annual Meeting, filled with optimism for our bright future.

- Outgoing president Laura Lowe reviewed our fiscal health and thanked Cantor Sharon Bernstein and Office Manager Carrie Kwong for providing stability during a year of high staff turnover.
- Rabbi Riter and Cantor Bernstein each reviewed their work over the past year.
- Assistant treasurer Alice Harron stated that our income from last year was above budget. Our fiscal year 2017 budget was unanimously approved.
- Beth Ross spoke on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee and announced their plans to buy chairs for our sanctuary.
- President-elect Michael Chertok talked about his plans for the future. He also announced that our Rainbow Campaign was highly successful, with \$165,000 in pledges, and that we had received a generous \$250,000 bequest from Jerry Rosenstein, z"l, to be applied toward our mortgage and Chai Campaign.
- Larry Best and Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Interim Director Martin Rawlings-Fein discussed goals for the new year.
- The new Va'ad officers and members were elected: Michael Chertok, President; Larry Best, Diana Buchbinder, and Nancy Levin, Vice Presidents; Laura Lowe, Immediate Past President; Alice Harron, Treasurer; Marc Lipschutz, Recorder; Don Fischer, Laurie Trupin, Martin Rawlings-Fein, and Tom Lakritz at-large Va'ad members; Michael Rice, Martin Tannenbaum, Andy Williamson, Judith Wolfe, and Larry Wexler will continue in at-large positions.
- Laura thanked the Food Chavurah and the Building & Grounds Committee for their work over the past year. She also thanked James Carlson, Immediate Past President, Mark Pressler, Vice President, Tiela Chalmers, Treasurer, and Eve Meyer, at-large member, as they ended their time on the Va'ad.
- Martin Tannenbaum dedicated an Azkarah (Remembrance) to Jerry Rosenstein, z"l, describing his life, survival of the Holocaust, and active and generous support of CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services.

## "Transcend" Retreat

By MARC LIPSCHUTZ

On Sunday, July 17, the Va'ad, along with Rabbi Ted Riter and Rabbi Jan Offel of the Union of Reform Judaism met for a retreat which we called "Transcend," based on Sha'ar Zahav's new tagline, Transcend the Ordinary. Here are few highlights from the retreat:

- Rabbi Offel, who specializes in working with congregations in transition, facilitated a discussion about our role as members of the Va'ad and about the covenant of leadership.
- We then completed an exercise which taught us to identify assumptions and needs, and to work collaboratively and with innovation.
- There were presentations about the work of various Sha'ar Zahav committees.
- Rabbi Riter updated us regarding the hiring process for our Director of Engagement and Director of Family & Children's Education, as well as about other work he is doing.



## Basking In The Joy Of A Good Deed

By RAY BERNSTEIN

I'm so privileged to be able to live in San Francisco. I have a beautiful flat, in a building purchased with strangers after 9/11, when the market wasn't sure there would be a tomorrow. There are times when I think I should give up



my home, because I don't deserve such a great place. Surely refugees could use it better! But where would I go then? I never think this all the way through.

Sha'ar Zahav provided me with a solution: After I'm gone, the congregation can have my house. This plan offers multiple advantages. First, there's no need for me to exit the house now to achieve a righteous outcome. Second, I'm secure in the knowledge that experts in the congregation will know how to sell the flat. Third, I am confident that the proceeds will

fund important community services at CSZ. Fourth, I've reduced the burden on my executors, which is a good thing, because they will already be knee-deep in books, art, supplies, and miscellaneous junk.

The process was extremely simple. I signed a very simple form and gave it to the congregational representative for the Legacy Campaign. Then I had a chat with an attorney about my

*"I am confident that the proceeds will fund important community services at CSZ."*

*- Ray Bernstein*

wishes. (Alternatively, I could have followed instructions from Nolo Press about making a will for myself.) Then I basked in the joy of a good deed.

You'll have your own reasons for leaving something for the future of our congregation. Maybe it's an important life-cycle occasion, when CSZ was a particularly important part of your life. Maybe it's the day-to-day constancy of a congregation being there for all of us. Maybe it's a recognition of the difficulty of leaving any meaningful mark behind.

Consider letting CSZ use your resources after you don't need them. May *our* memories be for a blessing.

**"Tzedakah and acts of kindness are the equivalent of all the mitzvot of the Torah"**

**- Jerusalem Talmud, Pe'ah 1:1.**

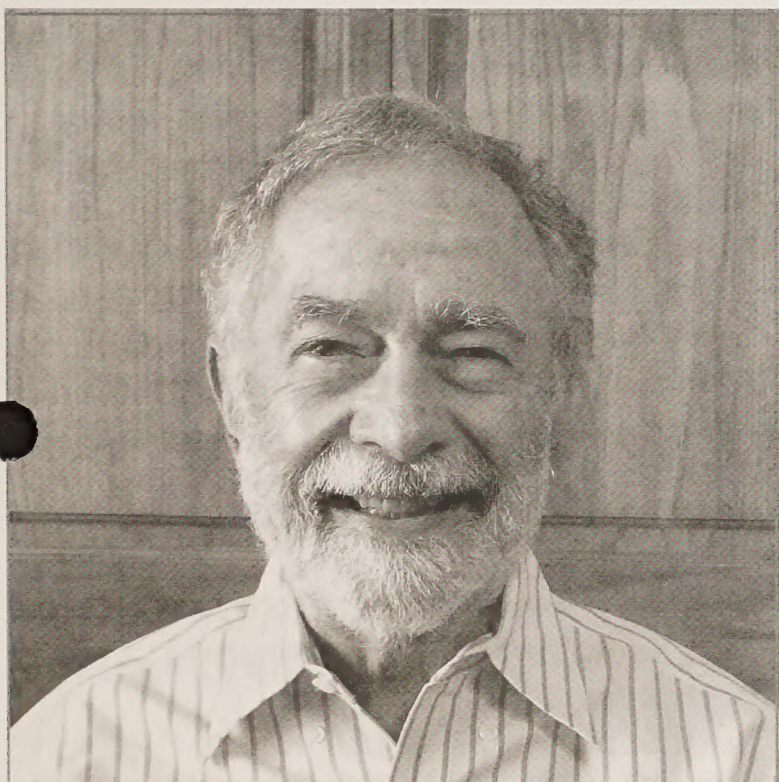


## My Legacy Gift To CSZ

by MIKE ZIMMERMAN

A gift to CSZ is part of my estate plan. I've been asked to explain why. To be honest, when I made my list of the four to five candidates for charitable bequests, there never was any doubt that CSZ would be on that list.

Forty-seven years ago, when I came to California, I joined a Conservative synagogue. I thought it would be more authentically "Jewish." The rabbi was young, articulate and



welcoming, but he would not allow women to read from the Torah. That bothered me. The first time I saw a woman read from the Torah, I was thrilled. That was my first big CSZ mo-

*"my gift is about more than expressing gratitude."*

*- Mike Zimmerman*

ment. Fast forward to last year. I am at my daughter's temple in Albuquerque for Rosh Hashanah. The congregation was using Mishkan Hanefesh, the Union for Reform Judaism's new prayer books for the High Holy Days which CSZ recently adopted. I thumbed through the book. It had commentaries, short teachings, footnotes! I immediately thought of our Siddur Sha'ar Zahav. Once again, CSZ seemed to have provided a model and led the way. Another CSZ moment!

Of course I have benefited from my years of membership, but my gift is about more than expressing gratitude. I admire CSZ's adventurous spirit, committed leaders, deep lay involvement, unconventional style, and problem-solving skills.

My gift may not be large enough to merit a memorial bookshelf or even a closet. That's not the point. My gift is an expression of support for the belief that CSZ must and will continue to play a leadership role on the cutting edge of where Judaism needs to be.

## SHA'AR ZAHAV LEGACY CAMPAIGN

Our Legacy Community is the vehicle for remembering Sha'ar Zahav in your estate or trust planning. More than 20% of our members have responded to the launch of the Legacy campaign by signing and submitting a "Letter of Intent".

If you are ready to join this commitment for the future of our community or have questions, please contact:

Irene Ogus at [irene.ogus@gmail.com](mailto:irene.ogus@gmail.com)



**High Holy Days Pledges 5776**

Ed Leddy  
 Andy Fyne  
 Jo Ellen Kaiser & Zoe Kaiser  
 Lisa Katz  
 Cynthia Navarro & Kathryn McHenry  
 Mark Leno  
 Ilana Strubel  
 Cindy Icke  
 Joan Goldman  
 Larry Best

**High Holy Days Sponsors 5777**

Michael & Jane Rice  
 Julia Weber & Charles Fineberg  
 Beth Ross & Laura Trupin  
 Ilona Turner  
 Paul Peninger  
 James Carlson

**Rainbow 2014**

Erika Katski & Reuben Zellman  
 Jonathan Zingman & Ann Daniels

**Rainbow 2015**

Irene Tannenbaum  
 Patty Caplan & Jonathan Simonoff

**Rainbow 2016**

Isaac Guttman  
 in memory of Florence Guttman  
 & Simon Engelhardt  
 Deborah Udin & Lucy Cefalu  
 Jeff Weil  
 Rose Katz  
 Jan Half  
 Bernard Schertzer  
 Avi Goldberg & William Garcia  
 Carolyn Reiser & Karren Shorofsky  
 Ellen Press  
 Michael Zimmerman  
 Yo Schneeman  
 Joan Goldman

Andy Fyne  
 Andrew & Michelle Williamson  
 Jo Ellen Kaiser & Zoe Kaiser  
 Harriet Rafter  
 Katherine Simon  
 Nancy Levin  
 Samuel Walters  
 Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach  
 Lisa Katz  
 Elli Cohen  
 Jeffrey Auman  
 Michael & Jane Rice  
 Nancy Meyer  
 Drew Parker-Rose & Flavio Epstein  
 Jerry Rosenstein Trust  
 Brad Post & Susan Leff  
 Jeffrey Lilly  
 Nina Raff & Annie Winters  
 Hilary Zaid & Lauren Augusta  
 Diane Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker  
 Larry Wexler  
 Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher  
 Rose Katz  
 Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado  
 Ruth Bernstein & Matthew Patchell  
 Steve Wiesner  
 Michael Zimmerman  
 Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann  
 Beth Ross & Laura Trupin  
 Ruth Schoenbach & Lynn Eden  
 Irene Ogus  
 Ilana Bernstein & Diane Desmond  
 Shoshana Levenberg & Andrea Guerra  
 Helen Bruno & Kevin Stein  
 Yo Schneeman  
 Andrew & Michelle Williamson  
 Mark Mackler  
 Kathleen & Ernest Friedlander  
 Martin & Meagan Fox  
 Laura Lowe  
 Irene Tannenbaum  
 Jonathan Funk  
 Virginia Donahue & Mark Klaiman  
 Grossberg-Abrams Foundation  
 Tamara Abrams



## **General Fund**

**Ron Lezell**

in memory of Sophie Lezell

**Mark Lipsitz**

in honor of Ray Bernstein

**Aleta Dupree**

**Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz**

**Ruth Schoenbach & Lynn Eden**

**Florence & Steven Nacamulli**

in honor of Laura Lowe

**Rosalie Gellman**

in memory of the tragedy in Orlando

**James Carlson**

in memory of Kenneth Carlson

**Rose Katz**

in memory of Sadie Katz

**Jeffrey Smith**

in memory of Jerry Rosenstein

**Colleen McKee**

**Marc & Rebecca Dembling**

**Jonathan Zingman & Ann Daniels**

in honor of Cantor Bernstein

& Paul Cohen for their support of

Zingman-Daniels family during

their bereavement.

## **The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk**

### **Musical Events Fund**

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**

in memory of Rabbi Julius Funk & Pearl

Funk on the occasion of his 10th Yahrzeit.

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**

in memory of Mitzi Levin

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**

in memory of Sydney Fishman

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**

in memory of Alan Harap

& Joseph Wiseman

**Avraham Giannini**

in memory of Georgette Beainy

**Steve Polsky & Mark Oliver**

in honor of Jonathan Funk, Steve Weitz  
& Kipp Leyser (Naked Voices), for lending  
your beautiful voices at Gabriel's  
bar mitzvah.

## **BSPM Fund**

**Steve Polsky & Mark Oliver**

in honor of Marc Lipschutz for being a  
wonderful bar mitzvah mentor to Gabriel.

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Allan Berenstein**

in memory of Jay Feinstein

**Avraham Giannini**

in honor of Ron Edelman's Saturday services

## **Memorial Plaques & Bookplates**

**Ron Lezell**

in honor of Laura Lowe

**Allan Berenstein**

in honor of Michael Chertok's election,  
Elijah Lezell Jatovsky's graduation,  
and in memory of David Kotch, Hal Podgur,  
John Golebowski, Perel Berenstein,  
and his former wife, Marsha Nohl.

## **Music in the Mishkan**

**Florence & Steven Nacamulli**

in honor of Nancy Levin's birthday

## **Chai Fund (Cantor)**

**Gerald B. Rosenstein Estate**

## **Chai Fund (Building)**

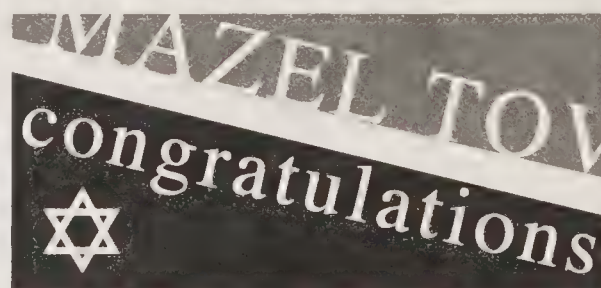
**Gerald B. Rosenstein Estate**

Your contributions help us realize our commitment to building and maintaining a vibrant, living community for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. A donation can be a meaningful way to honor friends or family, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, for special thanks, or to memorialize a loved one. Collectively, with your financial support, we continue to prosper, grow, and celebrate our future.



**Nachas:**

- The National Association of LGBTQ Journalists has announced that **Ina Turpen Fried** will be inducted into their Hall of Fame at their meeting in Miami Beach in September.

**Thank You to all our sponsors.****June 10-11**

Flowers: Oliver-Polsky family

in memory of Gabriel's grammy.

Saturday Kiddush: Oliver-Polsky family

in honor of Gabriel's bar mitzvah

**June 24-25**

Flowers: Martin & Alex

in honor of "our CSZ community  
that transcends the ordinary!"

**July 1-2**

Oneg: Jonathan Funk & John Arnold

in memory of Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk  
& of Rabbi Funk's 10th yahrzeit.

**July 15-16**

Flowers: CSZ's past presidents  
in honor of Laura Lowe

Oneg: CSZ's past presidents  
in honor of Michael Chertok  
& the new Va'ad

**August 12-13**

Flowers: James Carlson  
in memory of Jan Tuzzolino

**August 19-20**

Oneg: Alan Ferarra  
in honor of Allan Gold's 70th birthday

**August 26-27**

Flowers: Judith Huerta & Marjorie Hilsenrad  
in memory of Judith's mother, Mariol Knapp

**May Their Memories Be For A Blessing:**

Lee Marks,

great aunt of Brad Post

Rebecca Daarud,

birth-mother of Shai Garcia-Goldberg

Sammy Szer,

brother of Lisa Szer

Mariol Knapp,

mother of Judith Huerta

Damir Augusta,

nephew of Lauren Augusta & Hilary Zaid  
& cousin of Ro'e & Gil'I Zaid

Patricia Daniels,

mother of Ann Daniels,  
mother-in-law of Jonathan Zingman  
& grandmother of Naomi  
& Shira Zingman-Daniels



By MARC LIPSCHUTZ

**During the June 2016 Va'ad meeting we:**

- Were taught by Eve Meyer that we are all fragments of HaShem's rainbow light, created in G-d's image, with souls on temporary library loans to complete designated tasks.
- Assessed our budget, which at 92% through our fiscal year reflects both overall terrific and mildly cautious news.
- Resolved to ask Ritual Committee to review our current bimah attire policy and consider alternatives for a revised code.
- Committed to reconstitute the Social Action Committee, which will decide issues to pursue, with a special emphasis to consider gun control and immigration.
- Reviewed progress in hiring a Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Education Director and a Program and Engagement staff person.
- Recapped our 2015 – 2016 year to date, with \$166,663 in Rainbow pledges, and \$250,000 received from the estate of Jerry Rosenstein, z"l, with \$200,000 designated for mortgage and \$50,000 per Chai Campaign, per Jerry's instructions.
- Michael Chertok will begin sending a monthly presidential email, and in November or December we'll have a congregational meeting to vote on a new Interfaith Bylaw.

- Examined our work with Lightbox, along with our design to communicate our messages and promote High Holidays 5777 and our return to the Herbst Theater, and planned the launch of our new website.
- We thanked Laura Lowe for her incredible work throughout her two years as CSZ President. With Laura's huge heart, enormous efforts, and countless hours of time invested, we moved from a challenging time of transition and are emerging most successfully and strong. Yasher koach and todah rabah (strength and thanks to you) Laura!

**During the August Va'ad meeting we:**

- Discussed candidates for our Director of Education and Director of Engagement positions.
- Signed Covenant of Leadership agreements, pledging to be dedicated, ethical and proactive stewards of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.
- Planned for High Holidays 5777 at the Herbst Theater, with new machzorim (prayer books), new children's programming, additional music, email notification, and electronic ticketing.

---

**All CSZ members are invited to attend Va'ad meetings, usually scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.**

**Our New Website**

By KAREN SCHILLER

Fireman Creative, a website design firm based in Pittsburgh, PA has won our contract to design a new and exciting website, including a new logo which captures us - "transcend the ordinary".

Many congregants participated in the survey

looking at a number of logo possibilities. The new website is scheduled to be live by October 31st. We hope you will check it out and give us your feedback.



*(continued from the cover)*

which we believe will keep us more connected as a community. Our High Holy Days experience this year started online. You should have received ticket information by email and registered online. If you haven't, please check your email and follow the simple registration process. You may print out a paper copy of your ticket or link to it on your mobile phone. Of course, if neither option works, our staff and volunteers will gladly assist you.

As part of our ticketing process, we ask you to consider making a financial contribution to the congregation before the holiday. Please consider making a generous gift from your heart. This will help ensure that we have sufficient resources to cover all the costs of our holiday celebration, and that we won't need to demonstrate during services how to fold down the tabs of a pledge form!

This year we will pray with the contemporary liturgy of Mishkan Hanefesh, the new Reform

prayer books for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We're excited to embrace the relevant and meaningful language, while also holding onto prayers that are familiar and sacred to our community, such as our Communal Prayer of Remembrance. And we'll only need to balance one book in our laps!

Finally, we are making the holidays a special experience for the children in our community. In addition to childcare and Children's Services, we will have innovative music and art activities for youth in three different age groups. Rabbi Lew's description of the Holy Day experience continues on to the end of the holidays, "The gate clangs shut, the great horn sounds one last time. You feel curiously light-hearted and clean."

I hope that your High Holy Days experience at Sha'ar Zahav this year is reflective, deeply moving, connecting, and brings you to a similar place.



GOLDSTEIN  
GELLMAN, MELBOSTAD  
HARRIS & McSPARRAN  
LLP

1388 SUTTER STREET, SUITE 1000  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109  
(415) 673-5600 TEL  
(415) 673-5606 FAX  
[www.g3mh.com](http://www.g3mh.com)



## LEGAL HELP?

ESTATE PLANNING  
BUSINESS LAW  
REAL ESTATE  
LITIGATION  
CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION  
TENANCY-IN-COMMON  
PROBATE  
PERSONAL INJURY  
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

**David Gellman**  
[DGellman@g3mh.com](mailto:DGellman@g3mh.com)

**Arthur Meirson**  
[AMeirson@g3mh.com](mailto:AMeirson@g3mh.com)



## October

- 2 William Korthof
- 3 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr

## November

- 3 Forrest Kincade
- 7 Donald Albert
- 11 Bruce Apter
- 11 Matthew Rostoker
- 12 Dr. Richard Wright
- 13 Harvey Levine
- 16 Chuck Norton
- 18 William David Holt II
- 22 Tristano Palermينو
- 27 Harvey Milk

## December

- 4 Marilyn O'Keeffe
- 9 Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu
- 9 Nicholas Papadopoulos
- 18 David Glassberg
- 20 Norman D. Kramer
- 21 Walter Palmer
- 22 Elijah M Silverrod MacLachlan
- 28 Phyllis Mintzer
- 29 Allan Craig



### Nourish your values with your investments

- Holistic personal financial planning aligned with your progressive values
- Fee-only\* CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® practitioner specializing in Socially Responsible Investments
- Small business retirement plans and consulting
- Free initial consultation



**Jim Frazin, CFP®, AIF®**

**415.337.4566 x 101**

**jim@CommunitasFinancial.com**

Jim Frazin, is an Investment Advisory Representative of Communitas Financial Planning Inc, an independent investment advisory firm registered in California.

Please note: Advertising  
deadline for our next  
issue is November 15th!

Hills of Eternity  
Memorial Park

Home of Peace  
Cemetery

Salem Memorial Park

*Serving Northern California's  
Jewish Community Since 1850*

- Dedicated section for congregants
- In-Ground Burial Plots
- Indoor and Garden Mausoleum Crypts
- Niche and In-Ground Urn Gardens
- Convenient Payment Plans

For an appointment,  
please call 650.755.4700

James Carlson, Executive Director  
and Sha'ar Zahav member  
Benjamin J. Ruhs, Director of Sales

1299 El Camino Real  
Colma, CA 94014-3238

[www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org](http://www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org)

# Charles Spiegel Law

**REAL ESTATE  
DIVORCE AND CUSTODY  
ADOPTION AND  
SURROGACY  
PRE AND POST NUPTIAL  
AGREEMENTS**

*Charles Spiegel, Esq.,*  
CSZ Member

Attorney and Mediator  
[CharlesSpiegelLaw@gmail.com](mailto:CharlesSpiegelLaw@gmail.com)  
[www.charlesspiegelaw.com](http://www.charlesspiegelaw.com)  
(415) 644-4555

SINAI

MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco (FD 262)  
(415) 921-3636

East Bay (FD 1523)  
(925) 962-3636

Peninsula (FD 1830)  
(650) 369-3636

- Advance planning counseling
- At need arrangements
- Bereavement support services
- Burial at all Jewish Cemeteries

Locally & Worldwide

[www.sinaichapel.org](http://www.sinaichapel.org)



**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav**



290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco CA 94103

Voice 415 861 6932

Fax 415 861 6081

Web [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

Rabbi Ted Riter

Cantor Sharon Bernstein

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA

Permit # 12628

**Friday, December 2, 2016, 7:30 PM  
at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav**

# **JUMP...DANCE...SING...**

**JOIN us for Klezmer Shabbat - a night of singing,  
dancing, davening (praying), and eating.**

We'll be blessed with Cantor Sharon Bernstein on vocals and piano,  
Stuart Brotman on bass, Sheldon Brown on clarinet,  
Ilana Sherer on violin, and Bruce Bierman on feet.



**This evening is in memory of Larry Tannenbaum, z"l  
- who never missed an opportunity for great food  
and drink, ruach (spirit) and community.**